

# Celebrating Foreign Language

## July 2012

This month's calendar brought to you by  
Washington State Penitentiary's  
Diversity Advisory Council

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>How to say "Thank You"</b> Match the word or phrase to the correct language! Answer: 7/17 & 7/18	<b>2</b> <b>Merci</b> Spanish French Italian Portuguese Answer: 7/18	<b>3</b> <b>Dziękuję</b> Czech Hungarian Romanian Polish Answer: 7/19	<b>4</b> Independence Day United States of America 	<b>5</b> <b>Gracias</b> Romanian Portuguese Spanish Italian Answer: 7/20	<b>6</b> <b>Köszönöm</b> Nepalese Hindi Hungarian Lithuanian Answer: 7/21	<b>7</b> <b>Grazie</b> Croatian Spanish Italian Albanian Answer: 7/22
<b>8</b> <b>Obrigado</b> Japanese Portuguese Spanish Romanian Answer: 7/23	<b>9</b> <b>Dank u wel</b> Dutch German Danish Swedish Answer: 7/24	<b>10</b> <b>Hvala: ХВАЛЯ</b> Serbian Tagalog Yiddish Hebrew Answer: 7/25	<b>11</b> <b>Ar Khun: အာရုံခြားခွဲ</b> Xhosa Laotian Cambodian Tamil Answer: 7/26	<b>12</b> <b>Spasiba: спасибо</b> Turkish Latvian Farsi Russian Answer: 7/27	<b>13</b> <b>Todah: תודה רבה</b> Hebrew Chinese Ethiopian Korean Answer: 7/28 & 7/29	<b>14</b> <b>شکرا (جزیلا)</b> Cantonese Burmese Arabic Swahili Answer: 7/30
<b>15</b> <b>Asante</b> Ethiopian Yoruba Somalian Swahili Answer: 7/31	<b>16</b> <b>Shukriyyaa :</b> শুক্রিয়া (বহুত ধন্যবাদ) Bulgarian Burmese Hindi Hausa Answer: Last square	<b>17 French</b> With the Norman conquest in 1066, Norman French became the language of nobility in England. This continued until King John lost possession of the province of Normandy in the beginning	<b>18 French</b> (cont) of the 13th century. By the mid 1300s both nobles and commoners were speaking the same language.	<b>19 Polish</b> Polish is Poland's official language, and is used by Polish minorities in other countries. Its written standard is the Polish alphabet, which has several additions to the Latin script.	<b>20 Spanish</b> Spanish is a truly international language. It is even spoken in Turkey where a medieval form of Spanish is kept alive by Spanish Jews exiled from Spain over 500 years ago.	<b>21 Hungarian</b> Hungarian is related to none of its neighboring languages. It belongs to the same language group as Finnish and Estonian. Köszönöm
<b>22 Italian</b> The Italian language is closest to Latin, the language of Ancient Rome. Italian, French, Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese, Romansch (spoken in Switzerland), and Romanian are derived from Latin.	<b>23 Portuguese</b> 'Obrigado' sounds like the Japanese word for thank you, 'arigato'. Quite a few terms in Japanese can be traced to Portuguese. The Portuguese were the first westerners to visit Japan.	<b>24 Dutch</b> Dutch is closely related to German and English. 'Yankee' is derived from the Dutch word, 'Janke'. Dutch is the official language of the Netherlands, Belgium, Suriname, Aruba, Curacao, and Sint Maarten.	<b>25 Serbian</b> Serbian is often called Serbo/Croat. The languages are growing apart due to the break up of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. Serbian uses the Cyrillic alphabet and Croatian used the Roman script.	<b>26 Cambodian</b> The Khmer script is an alphasyllabary script used to write the Khmer language (the official language of Cambodia). 	<b>27 Russian</b> The Russian Cyrillic* alphabet is named after St. Cyril. It has a total of 33 letters. *спасибо	<b>28 Hebrew</b> Is an ancient language that was revitalized as a spoken, colloquial language by Jewish settlers in what was formerly Palestine and by the formulation of Israel in 1948. It is a linguistic descendant of Aramaic. The →
<b>29 Hebrew</b> (cont) Hebrew script is derived from the Phoenician* alphabet and is written right to left. תודה רבה	<b>30 Arabic</b> Know any Arabic? Sure, you do! Algebra, cipher, alcohol, and sugar are just a few of the words we borrow from Arabic. شکرا (جزیلا)	<b>31 Swahili</b> Known in Swahili itself as Kiswahili, Swahili is a Bantu language spoken by various ethnic groups that inhabit several large stretches of the Mozambique Channel coastline.	<b>Hindi</b> In Nepalese it is "tanyabad" Nepalese and Hindi are quite similar and share much of the same vocabulary. A few Hindi based words: Khaki, bungalow, punch, and thug. শুক্রিয়া (বহুত ধন্যবাদ)	<i>Own only what you can always carry with you: know languages, know countries, know people. Let your memory be your travel bag.</i> -- Alexander Solzhenitsyn		

## The Department of Corrections Celebrates Foreign Language Month

Nearly 7,000 languages are spoken on Earth, and somewhere between 60% and 80% of them have yet to be documented. As speakers switch to global tongues, such as English and Spanish, they lose not only the ability to converse in their local languages but also the detailed cultural knowledge that these languages embody. Linguists estimate that a language dies every 14 days.

K. David Harrison, a linguist from the Swarthmore College, predicts that by 2050 about 90% of spoken languages will be dead.

The languages with the most native speakers are:  
Mandarin Chinese - 882 million; Spanish - 325 million; English - 312-380 million (the number of people who speak English in China is larger than the USA!); Arabic - 206-422 million; Hindi - 181 million; Portuguese - 178 million; Bengali - 173 million; Russian - 146 million; Japanese - 128 million (most native speakers do not live in Japan, but in Korea, the USA, and Europe); German - 96 million.